

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 MMS-01 PM-03 L-02 EB-07

CU-02 INR-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

COME-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 OPIC-03 PC-01 PER-01 TRSE-00

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PLC - MR. BLOOMFIELD

ECP - MR. FALKNER

PLC:PM - MR. WILLIAMS

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R 301617Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100351

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN CASP PRE-IG MEETING

1. VENEZUELA PRE-IG CASP MEETING HELD ON APRIL 10. DELAY
IN TRANSMITTING SUMMARY DUE TO PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS.

2. PRE-IG OVERALL CONCLUSION WAS THAT ISSUE ANALYSIS IN
THE CASP WAS WELL DONE BUT THAT THE OPERATIONAL IMPLICATIONS
RAISED SOME QUESTIONS. IT WAS ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT THE
OPERATIONAL ASPECTS COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN THE VENE-
ZUELAN CONTEXT ALONE BUT ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF BROADER US
POLICIES ON ENERGY AND NATIONALIZATION. MOST OF THE
DISCUSSION REVOLVED AROUND THE CASP'S THREE ISSUES.

3. ISSUE ONE: THE PRE-IG CONSENSUS WAS AGAINST GOVERN-
MENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN OIL ACCESS NEGOTIATIONS

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(PAGE 10) BECAUSE (1) CURRENT US-VENEZUELA INTERDEPENDENCE

APPEARS TO ASSURE THAT ACCESS AT LEAST FOR THE NEAR TERM AND (2) SUCH PARTICIPATION, ON PART USG, WOULD REPRESENT BASIC REVISION OF CURRENT USG-OIL INDUSTRY RELATIONSHIP. PRE-IG RAISED AND THEN REJECTED ALTERNATIVE (SAME PAGE) OF PRESENCE OF USG OFFICIAL OBSERVER OR PARTICIPANT IN GOV-US COMPANY PETROLEUM NEGOTIATIONS, BECAUSE SUCH AN ACTION COULD (1) LIMIT OUR NEGOTIATING OPTIONS AT A LATER DATE SHOULD AN IMPASSE BE REACHED, (2) MEET WITH CONSIDERABLE OBJECTION ON THE PART OF BOTH COMPANIES AND GOV, AND

(3) ADVERSELY INTERFERE WITH THE CURRENT GOV TREND TOWARD MODIFICATION ITS DRAFT PETROLEUM REVERSION LAW.

4. ISSUE TWO: THE PRE-IG CONCURRED THAT THE USG SHOULD BUILD UP BILATERAL CONTACTS (PAGE 12), ADDING THAT WE SHOULD DEAL WITH CONCRETE AND SPECIFIC ISSUES, COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY WITH VENEZUELA IN HER NEW ROLE AS A DONOR NATION, AND EXPAND AREAS OF COLLABORATION IN SUCH FIELDS AS AGRICULTURE, TECHNOLOGY, AND PETROCHEMICALS.

5. ISSUE THREE: THE PRE-IG RECOMMENDED THAT THIS ISSUE BE DOWNGRADED FROM THE QUOTE PRIORITY UNQUOTE CATEGORY, BUT NONETHELESS THAT EVENHANDEDNESS BE DEFINED AND DISCUSSED BY THE IG. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD BE RESTATED AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE HOW CAN THE US CONTINUE TO JUSTIFY FMS CREDITS TO OIL RICH COUNTRIES? UNQUOTE

6. THE MEETING AGREED TO THE HOLDING OF AN IG, SINCE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 7. KISSINGER

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